Stennis Congressional Staff Fellows Program

The Stennis Congressional Staff Fellows Program is a practical, bipartisan leadership development experience for senior-level staff of the United States Congress. The program focuses on future challenges to Congress as an institution of American democracy and the leadership role played by senior Congressional staff in meeting those challenges.

In each Congress, 24 to 28 Stennis Fellows are selected by an independent panel. Each group is balanced by party and chamber. Stennis Fellows meet six to eight times over a 15 to 18 month period, with times and locations selected to be convenient to the Fellows.

Learning Agenda and Theme

One of the unique features of the Stennis Fellows Program is that Fellows determine their own learning agenda within a core theme. Nationally and internationally renowned experts will meet with the Stennis Fellows to explore various aspects of the agenda. While insights from guest experts are valuable, even more significant is the dialogue, learning and relationship building that takes place among the Stennis Fellows. At the conclusion of the Fellowship period, Fellows summarize their learning experience and, with the assistance of Stennis Center staff, prepare a summary of the Fellowship experience for the Congressional leadership and others interested in the future of the United States Congress. The Stennis Fellows Program is not an advocacy effort; ideas developed through the Fellowship are presented as a resource for Stennis Fellows, Members of Congress, students of Congress, and others who share an interest in the work.

The 112th Congress Stennis Fellows will look ahead to explore how Congress can best fulfill its constitutional role in the context of growing political polarization. While accentuating differences is an essential part of the political process, effective governing also depends on building trust, finding common ground, and achieving compromise. Stennis Fellows in previous Congresses have identified the threat of growing political polarization to the governing process and public trust in Congress.

While examining the broad theme of *Moving Beyond Political Polarization: How Can Congress Best Serve the Nation in the Coming Decade,* Fellows will explore current trends and then develop an agenda of questions to pursue together and with leading experts. Examples of possible questions to help shape this learning agenda include:

★ *Does Congress merely reflect polarization in society or does it reinforce or create polarization? Is this different from the past? How can Congress help find common ground and achieve compromise?*

★ *How does the media, both traditional and "new," reflect or reinforce polarization in Congress and society? What is the impact of recent developments such as social media, independent campaign expenditures, and 24/7 connectedness?*

★ *Can changes in Congressional rules, procedures, and relationships help deal with polarization?*

Eligibility

Stennis Fellows must be nominated by a Member of Congress and be senior-level Congressional staff such as committee staff directors, chiefs of staff, legislative directors, counsels, and senior professional staff. Nominees should demonstrate:
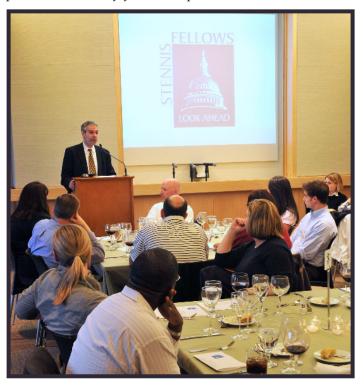
★ *A track record of leadership in key staff positions (personal or committee) characterized by senior management responsibility and involvement in significant aspects of the legislative process;*

★ *A reputation for statesmanship – caring for the evolution of Congress and the political system as a whole;*

★ *Significant career commitment to public service, with special emphasis on Congress;*

★ *A desire to make a significant contribution to further the mission of the program; and*

★ *A commitment to learn and fully participate in the responsibilities of the Fellowship.*

Nominations of high-potential staffers with limited Hill experience also will be considered. Re-nominations of senior-level staff not selected in prior Congresses are encouraged. The ability to devote the time necessary to participate fully in the program is a prerequisite to being selected and retaining the designation of Stennis Fellow.

The Stennis Center seeks diversity in the Stennis Fellows Program and does not discriminate among individual nominees on the basis of race, religion, sex, national or ethnic origin, disability, or veteran status.

Stennis Fellows Profile

Nearly 250 Stennis Fellows have completed their Fellowship and are now part of a growing academy of Senior Stennis Fellows. Many continue to serve in the Congress where their combined service totals over 3000 years. More than half of the Senior Fellows had ten years of experience or more at the time of their selection as a Stennis Fellow; fifteen percent had twenty years of experience or more.

Projected Calendar Highlights

Fellows Program Staff

Rex G. Buffington, II
Executive Director

Mary Dewald
Program Coordinator

Janet McKell
Administrative Secretary

Steven Rosell
Learning Process Leader
Stennis Congressional Staff Fellows Program
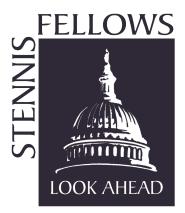
Tom Sliter
Senior Fellow and Program Coordinator

Mission of the Stennis Fellows Program

★ *Enhance the capacity and commitment of exceptional senior-level staff members to "Look Ahead" to what will be needed to better serve Congress and its Members in a world of rapid change;*

★ *Foster dialogue and the exchange of ideas among senior-level staff members in a neutral venue, and create a valuable network of bipartisan, bicameral working relationships;*

★ *Produce a useful result – an ongoing legacy of learning – for those who care about the long-term effectiveness of Congress as a governing institution; and*

★ *Recognize and honor senior-level staff of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in public service.*

Stennis Center for Public Service Leadership

The John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Leadership was established in 1988 under the legislative branch to promote and strengthen public service leadership within the Congress and the nation. The Stennis Center accomplishes its mission through leadership development programs, conferences, seminars, and special projects. The Stennis Center is headquartered in Starkville, Mississippi, with an office in Washington, DC.

STENNIS FELLOWS
LOOK AHEAD

Stennis Center for Public Service

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201 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite C-7 ★ Washington, DC 20002 ★ (202) 546-1837

www.stennis.gov ★ fellows@stennis.gov

Stennis Congressional Staff Fellows - 103rd through 111th Congress

111th Congress

Sanders Adu
Robert A. Cochran
Pamela Day
Ken Flanz
Jennifer Goedke
Paul Grove
Kate Hallahan
T.A. Hawks
Edward Hild
Leigh Hildebrand
Joshua Johnson
Charles Kieffer
Jessica Lewis
Tom Mahr
Damon Nelson
Richard Patrick
Martha Scott Poindexter
Randi Reid
John Righter
Kristen Sarri
Lisa Sherman
Elizabeth Stanley
Nien Su
Askia Suruma
Julie Tippens
David Watkins
Lynne Weil
Debra Bailey Whitman

110th Congress

Jane Alonso
Michael Anderson
Elise Kenderian Aronson
Mary Jane Collipriest
Sean P. Conway
Greg Dean
Kellie Donnelly
Fitzhugh Elder
Deborah Estes
Debra Gebhardt
Joseph Goffman
Lloyd Horwich
Aranthan Jones
Elizabeth MacDonough
Adam Magary
Andrea Martin
Susan McAvoy
Michael McCord
Terri McCullough
Kriston Alford McIntosh
Chad Metzler
Michele Nellenbach
Julie Little Nickson
Beverly Pheto

Cheryl Janas Reidy
Mary Frances Repko
Steve Robinson
Jo-Marie St. Martin
Karissa Willhite
Christopher J. Yianilos

109th Congress

Kristin Amerling
Shellie Berlin Bressler
David Brooks
Stephen Brophy
Geoffrey H. Brown
Richard W. Fieldhouse
Peter Fischer
Lynne Halbrooks
James J. Hearn
Stewart Holmes
Phil Karsting
Pete Kirkham
Julia Massimino
Peg McGlinch
Melissa Ann Mueller
Kristin Elise Nicholson
Nicholas Palarino
L. Shaun Parkin
Michael Quaranta
Craig Roberts
Kimberly Ross
Kimberly Rudolph
Robert Kevin Ryan
James C. Sandberg
Ilyse Schuman
Lawrence Ernest Spivey
Brett Thompson
Chris Tuttle
Shawn Whitman
Patrice Willoughby

108th Congress

Richard A. Arenberg
John M. Ariale
Winfield Boerckel, Jr.
David Cavicke
Jo-Ellen Darcy
Lula Davis
Don DeArmon
Bruce Evans
Beverly Fields
Gene T. Fisher
Monique Frazier
Jennice Fuentes
Christina Langelier Hamilton

Elisabeth Hawkings
Clayton Heil
Robert Gregory Hinote
Robert Holste
Stacey Leavandosky
Evan Liddiard
Stephanie Monroe
Sue Nelson
Janet Poppleton
Judy Schneider
Russell Sullivan
Kristine Svinicki
Alison Taylor
Paul Unger
Mark S. Wellman

107th Congress

Corine Larson Bradshaw
Joyce Brayboy
Cassandra Q. Butts
Kenneth M. Connolly
James K. Conzelman
Rebecca M. Davies
Bob Dobek
Raissa Downs
Michael W. Evans
Caroline Fredrickson
Andrew Givens
Angus M. Green
Tom Hawkins
Rick Healy
Charlie Houy
Clinton Jones
Kay King
Peter K. Levine
Christopher Miller
Kimberly C. Parker
Lori Rowley
Kate Sparks
Damon Tobias
Nicole Venable
Andrew B. Willison

106th Congress

Carolyn Apostolou
Paul S. Bock
Richard R. Boykin
Mark Brownell
James Derderian
Rochelle Suzanne Dornatt
Suzanne F. Farmer
Kevin I. Fromer
Linda Gustitus
Michael S. Hershey

Kristine A. Iverson
Nils W. Johnson
Kevin D. Kayes
John Wilcox Lampmann
Diane Liesman
Dennis Gray Maxwell
Patrick O. McGarey
David Pomerantz
John D. Schelble
Wendy Selig
Robert M. Simon
Mark Strand
Roger R. Szemraj
Stephen D. Vermillion
Marie G. Wheat
Andrew Wheeler
Mildeen Worrell
Rowdy Yeates

105th Congress

Earnest Charles Atkins
Daniel E. Bob
Manus M. Cooney
Thomas A. Daffron
Robert L. Dibblee
Stephenie Foster
Scott Brian Gudes
Ann M. Jablon
Cheryl Lynn Johnson
Daniel J. Keniry
Tamera S. Luzzatto
David Starrett Lyles
Christopher James Mansour
Nora Baumeister Matus
John W. McCamman
Katherine McGuire
Susanne Stout Smith
John Thomas Stirrup
Lizabeth Tankersley
Theodore J. Van Der Meid
Heea Vazirani-Fales
Connie Ann Veillette
Andrew R. Vermilye
Trudy Vincent
Gregory W. Waddell

104th Congress

Judith A. Blanchard
Moses Boyd
T. Scott Bunton
Joseph R. Crapa
Fariborz S. Fatemi
Mark Alan Forman
Thomas E. Harvey

Susan K. Hattan
Dorothy R. Jackson
Albert Steven Jacquez
William Mansel Long
Thomas O. Melius
Alan Bruce Mertz
Eleanor Nash-Brown
David Alan Nathan
Holly E. Propst
Matthew A. Reynolds
Arthur D. Rhodes
Douglas D. Ritter
J. Thomas Sliter
Charles C. Stephenson, Jr.
Steven Richards Valentine
Mark E. Van de Water
Patrick Von Bargen
Jane Gorsuch Wittmeyer
Donald R. Wolfensberger

103rd Congress

Leslie L. Atkinson
David Bartel
William Black
Steven T. Bosacker
Mark H. Brown
Donald G. Carlson
James H. Dykstra
James M. Eagen
Christine C. Ferguson
James M. Guthrie
W. Roger Gwinn
Nicholas Hayes
Suzanne C. Hildick
Robert H. Hurt
J. Keith Kennedy
David Krawitz
James M. Kulikowski
Terri Ann Lowenthal
Robert J. Ludwiczak
Susan Aheron Magill
Kari J. Moe
Kathy A. Ormiston
Arnold L. Punaro
Grace A. Reef
Marda J. Robillard
Phillip W. Rotondi
Robert M. Rozen
Robert P. Savitt
Carlottia A.W. Scott
Robert V. Seltzer
Kelly M. Sharbel
Dennis G. Smith
Leonard Weiss
Ellen Jones Whitt